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(56) Documents Cited:
EP 0784321 A2 **US 6304535 B1**
US 6272087 B1 **US 5764610 A**
US 5745460 A

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(54) Abstract Title: **Discrimination method of optical storage medium**

(57) A method for discriminating an optical storage medium. A predetermined range of the optical storage medium is read after the light source is focussed S304, and a plurality of data transition points and transition regions defined by an interval of two neighbouring transition points are obtained S306. The time consumption for reading, or length, of the longest transition region is used to determine the type of the storage medium S308, S310, S312. Other physical characteristics according to data storage formats, such as PLL clock frequency or distance between the reflection layer and the surface layer of the medium may be used as references to discriminate the currently accessed optical storage medium, such as a CD or DVD.

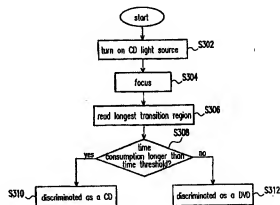


FIG. 3

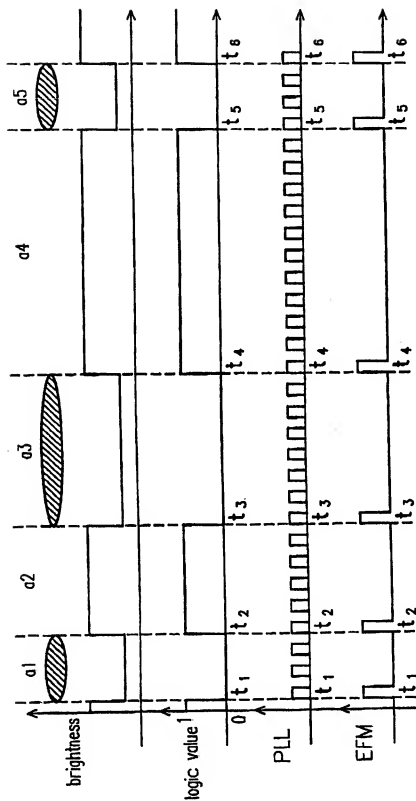


FIG. 1 (PRIOR ART)

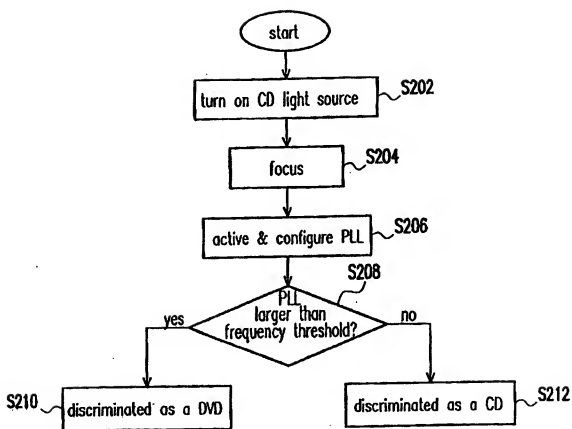


FIG. 2

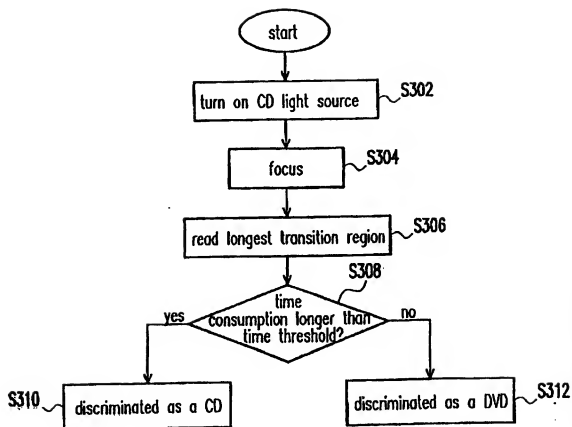


FIG. 3

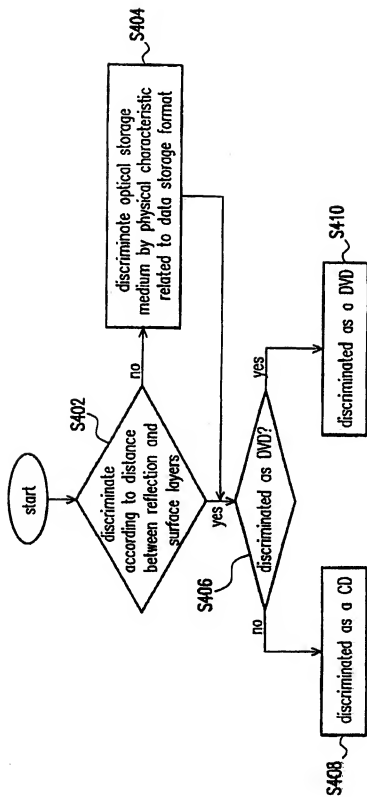


FIG. 4

DISCRIMINATION METHOD OF OPTICAL STORAGE MEDIUM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The invention relates in general to a discrimination method of an optical storage medium, and more particularly, to a method of discriminating the data storage format of the optical storage medium, according to the physical characteristics of various data storage formats thereof.

Related Art of the Invention

The optical storage media have been continuously retrofitted by versatile developments of related technologies. Nowadays, digital versatile disks (DVD) and compact disks (CD) are the two major types of optical storage media, which have been mass-produced and broadly for sale on the market. Many manufacturers devote their efforts to develop their optical pickup head with capability of reading data from both types of the optical storage media aforementioned. However, since these two types of optical storage media have different physical characteristics and data storage formats, any optical device essentially has the capable of discriminating the type of the currently loaded optical storage medium.

For example, an optical disk system (e.g. DVD-ROM drive or DVD-ROM/CDRW (i.e. Combo) drive) may assume the optical storage medium that its pickup head currently accessed is a DVD and use the parameters required for reading a DVD to drive its pickup head for reproducing data. Once the data cannot be reproduced under such an assumption, the optical pickup head is reset and loads associated parameters for reading a CD before driving the pickup head for reproducing data again. However, since the operations including light source turning on, lens focusing and tracking, must be performed before accessing data for confirming the assumption, time-cost is arisen for re-performing the aforementioned operations if the assumption is incorrect. Time-consumption that the optical pickup head discriminates the type of the optical storage medium may vary seriously and very difficult to control, customers may confuse that with system damage or malfunction.

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a method for discriminating an optical storage medium, comprising reading a predetermined range of the optical storage medium to obtain a plurality of data transition points, wherein each of transition regions is defined as an interval between two neighbouring ones of the data transition points, obtaining a longest transition region among the transition regions and discriminating a type of the optical storage medium according to a dimension of the longest transition region.

According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a method for discriminating an optical storage medium, comprising obtaining a clock

frequency for reading the optical storage medium and comparing the clock frequency with a frequency threshold to discriminate a type of the optical storage medium.

According to a third aspect of the invention there is provided a method for discriminating an optical storage medium, comprising projecting a light beam onto the optical storage medium to obtain a distance between a reflection layer and a surface layer of the optical storage medium and comparing the obtained distance with a distance threshold to discriminate the optical storage medium.

Thus using the invention it is possible to provide a discrimination method of an optical storage medium, which quickly and correctly discriminates the type of the currently loaded optical storage medium according to the physical characteristics of the corresponding data storage format thereof.

The present invention further provides a discrimination method of an optical storage medium that reads a predetermined range of an optical storage medium and obtains a lot of data transition points after the light source is focused on. Thereafter, the transition region that has the longest maintained period defined by two neighboring data transition points is selected so as to determine the type of the optical storage medium.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the time-consumption for reading the longest data transition region is used as a reference for determining the type of the currently loaded optical storage medium. Under the same rotation speed, an optical storage medium is determined as a CD when the time-consumption for reading the longest transition region is longer than a time threshold. In contrast, the optical storage medium is determined as a DVD if the time-consumption for reading the longest transition region is shorter than the time threshold.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the PLL clock frequency applied for reproducing data is used as a reference for discriminating the optical storage media. Under the same rotation speed, when the clock frequency used for reading data at the same location is smaller than a frequency threshold, the optical storage medium is determined as a CD. On the contrary, the currently accessed optical storage medium is determined as a DVD if the PLL clock frequency is larger than the frequency threshold.

In a still further embodiment, the distance between the reflection and surface layers is employed to accelerate the discrimination process since the reflection layer of a DVD is substantially at an intermediate position between the upper lower surface layers of the DVD, while the reflection layer of a CD is located underneath the surface layer more distant from the light source. Accordingly, based on the physical characteristics for each specific data storage format of the optical storage medium such as the longest transition region between the data transition points and the clock frequency applied for reproducing data, the type of optical storage medium may be determined easily. The CDs and DVDs may be distinguished by using the methods of

the embodiments since their physical characteristics and storage formats are very different to each other.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These, as well as other features of the present invention, will become more apparent upon reference to the drawings.

Figure 1 shows a waveform diagram illustrative of the data storage format when reproducing data from a compact disk.

Figure 2 shows the process flow in one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 shows the process flow in the second embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 shows the process flow in the third embodiment of the present invention.

To allow one of ordinary skill in the art to easily understand the present invention, the data storage format and the reproducing method of an optical storage medium are illustrated as follows. Figure 1 shows the waveform diagram illustrative of the data storage format when reproducing data from a CD. As known by those skilled in the art, any data should pass and eight-to-fourteen modulation (EFM) before recorded on the CD. Tracks composed of pits denoted by a1, a3 and a5 and lands denoted by a2 and a4 in Figure 1 are formed on the CD. While accessing data

from a CD, the operations such as turning on light source, rotating the CD, lens focusing and tracking, are performed before reading data from the tracks.

While reproducing data, the light source is incident on the tracks and reflected to the pickup head. Relative to the lands, the pits include recessed grooves. The brightness of the reflected light at various positions is shown as Figure 1 wherein the brightness of the pits are lower than that of the lands. The brightness obtained by the pickup head is then digitized into corresponding logic values. Waveforms of these logic values may be read by referring a frequency-adjustable PLL clock, and then transformed into digital data based on EFM coding specification.

As shown in Figure 1, the logic values convert at time t_1 , t_2 , t_3 , t_4 , t_5 and t_6 . In the following description of the specification, a data transition point is defined as the moment when conversion occurs, while a transition region refers to an interval between two neighboring data transition points. According to the rule of the EFM specification, the length of each transition region should be constrained between three to eleven periods ($3T$ to $11T$) of the PLL clocks. Furthermore, the data transition point indicates logic 1 and the rest (i.e. the non-transition points) indicates logic 0 as the definitions of the EFM specification. Obviously, the EFM value depicted in Figure 1 is 10010000100000010000000001001 with transition region lengths 3, 5, 7, 11 and 3 from left to right.

The DVD employs a coding approach similar to that of the CD except that the CD uses eight-to-fourteen modulation while the DVD uses eight-to-sixteen modulation. Furthermore, each transition region corresponding to DVD specification must be restricted between three and fourteen periods ($3T$ to $14T$) of the PLL clocks. Therefore, the dimension differences between the longest transition regions of the CD

and DVD are arisen from both of the differences in data storage format and that in data accessing speeds under the same rotation speed. Generally, the longest transition region (eleven PLL periods, 11T) for the CD is about 3.341 microns while the longest transition region (fourteen PLL periods, 14T) for DVD is about 1.867 microns. The embodiment employs the differences of the physical characteristics in data storage formats, such as the longest transition region, the time-consumption for reading and the frequency of the clock PLL, as references to discriminate the currently loaded optical storage medium.

Figure 2 shows a flow illustrative of the operating procedure in one embodiment of the present invention. Please note that the light source used for accessing data from the CD may also be used to focus on the DVD. Conversely, the light source for accessing the DVD can only be used to focus on the DVD instead of both. Therefore, the embodiment may operate the light source used for accessing CD now, however, the present invention may employ light sources used for accessing both of DVD and CD if technology developments make such kind of light source being designed in the future.

In the embodiment as shown in Figure 2, the CD light source is firstly turned on to project light beam on the optical storage medium before focusing operation (step S202). After the focusing step, the optical pickup head accesses data in a predetermined range of the optical storage medium to achieve the objective that configures the PLL clock frequency used for reading the data (Steps 204).

Generally speaking, the most front section of each data frame contains a lot of synchronous data providing for achieving the purposes of configuring the PLL clock frequency and others. These synchronous data include several longest transition

regions conforming to the currently used data storage format. For example, the synchronous data encompasses several longest transition regions partitioned into eleven parts (i.e. 11T) by the PLL clocks under the CD format. Similarly, the longest transition regions contained synchronous data being partitioned into fourteen equivalent parts (i.e. 14T) by PLL clocks under the DVD format. Therefore, the longest transition region may be accessed correctly by means of the accessing operations to the synchronous data in each data frame so that the PLL clock frequency may be configured according to currently used rotation speed.

After the clock PLL is activated and configured already, the configured PLL clock frequency is compared to a frequency threshold to realize the type of the optical storage medium accessed by the optical pickup head (step S206). Assume that the CD light source is used to read the innermost part of the optical storage medium under a fixed rotation speed 2400 rpm and the optical storage medium is a CD, then the PLL clock frequency is:

$$4.3218MHz \times \frac{2400rpm}{500rpm} = 20.74MHz \quad (1)$$

where 4.3218MHz is the PLL clock frequency used for reading CD data under the standard speed (i.e. 1X), and 500 rpm is the rotation speed for reading data in the inner part of CD under 1X.

Under the above conditions, if the optical storage medium is a DVD, the PLL clock frequency is:

$$26.16MHz \times \frac{2400rpm}{1389rpm} \times \frac{11T}{14T} = 35.56MHz, \quad (2)$$

where 26.16MHz is the PLL clock frequency for reading DVD data under the standard speed (i.e. 1X), and 1389 rpm is the rotation speed for reading data in the inner part of the DVD under 1X. If the DVD is mis-recognized as a CD, the longest transition region 14T will be treated as 11T, which indicates that a factor 11T/14T should be multiplied to obtain the actual PLL clock frequency by using the above equation.

From the above equations (1) and (2), different types of optical storage media may derive different clock frequencies under the same circumstances that the CD light source is used to access the innermost part of the optical storage media under the same rotation speed 2400 rpm. Accordingly, if a reference frequency may be predetermined between that employed by these two optical storage media, any frequency actually obtained or configured may be compared with the reference frequency (step S208), such that the optical storage medium may be recognized as a DVD (if the actually obtained PLL frequency is larger than the frequency threshold at step S210) or a CD (if the actually obtained PLL frequency is smaller than the frequency threshold at step S212) easily.

Please note that the above parameters are only examples of the present invention, any person having ordinary skills in the art may adjust the parameter values according to specifications or requirements.

Figure 3 shows the process flow of the second embodiment according to the present invention. In this embodiment, the steps of turning on the CD light source (step S302), lens focusing (step S304), and reading the longest transition region (step S306) are sequentially performed before accessing data by using the optical pickup head. Since the lengths of the longest transition regions of a CD and DVD are so different (as mentioned above, 3.341 microns and 1.867 microns, respectively), the time-

consumption for reading the longest transition region of the CD is longer than that of the DVD when reading the same range under the same rotation speed. Therefore, when a time threshold is set between the times for accessing the DVD and CD (step S308), any optical storage medium may be easily recognized as a CD (step S310) or a DVD (step S312) by comparing the actual time-consumption regarding accessing operation to the longest transition region with the time threshold.

Figure 4 shows a process flow of the third embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the distance between the reflection and surface layers is used to accelerate the discrimination process (step S402). Generally speaking, the reflection layer of a DVD is substantially at an intermediate position between the upper and lower surface layers of the DVD while the reflection layer of a CD is located underneath the surface layer more distant from the light source. Therefore, almost recognition procedures for determining what type of the currently loaded optical storage medium is may be correctly accomplished by measuring the distance between the reflection and surface layers. However, there still exists certain degree of measurement errors in the optical storage media since optical disk manufacturers may not seriously follow their specifications. Additionally, since the measurement is based on the velocity of light, the minor distance difference between the reflection and surface layers of CD and DVD requires very accurate time-measurement even CD and DVD are manufactured by following associated specifications. It is evident that the measurement approach is uncertain because distance error always occurs in every optical disc, which indicates that the type of the loaded optical storage medium may not be recognized correctly when the distance error is larger than a distance threshold.

Therefore, when the distance between the reflection and surface layers of the optical storage medium is accurately measured, based on the distance (step S406), the optical storage medium can be determined as a CD (e.g. if the distance is larger than a distance threshold, step S408) or a DVD (e.g. if the distance is smaller than a distance threshold, step S410). However, when the distance between the reflection and surface layers of the optical storage medium cannot be accurately measured (i.e. larger than a failure threshold), the optical storage medium is discriminated according to physical characteristics related to the data storage formats (e.g. by using the first or second embodiments in Figures 2 and 3) (step S404). After obtaining the distance or the physical characteristic (step S406), the optical storage medium can be determined as a CD (step S408) or a DVD (step S410).

Additionally, any blank optical storage medium without data recorded thereon may be recognized since its PLL clock frequency remains at zero substantially. Therefore, the operations such as tracking and data accessing that are meaningless to any blank optical disk may be bypassed and ignored. Please note that the decision procedure to the PLL clock frequency may be employed in all embodiments of the present invention to recognize blank optical disks.

The present invention at least offers the advantages as follows. Firstly, the physical characteristics associated with data storage formats are used to discriminate the types of the optical storage media with less time-consumption than before. Secondly, any blank optical disk can be recognized faster than before according to the PLL clock frequency in the disclosed method.

Other embodiments of the invention will appear to those skilled in the art from consideration of the specification and practice of the invention disclosed herein. It

is intended that the specification and examples to be considered as exemplary only, with a true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method for discriminating an optical storage medium, comprising:
reading a predetermined range of the optical storage medium to obtain a plurality of data transition points, wherein each of transition regions is defined as an interval between two neighboring ones of the data transition points;
obtaining a longest transition region among the transition regions; and
discriminating a type of the optical storage medium according to a dimension of the longest transition region.
2. A discrimination method according to Claim 1, wherein the discriminating step comprises:
obtaining a time-consumption for reading the longest transition region; and
comparing the time-consumption with a time threshold to discriminate the optical storage medium.
3. A discrimination method according to Claim 2, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a DVD when the time-consumption is smaller than the time threshold.
4. A discrimination method according to Claim 2, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a CD when the time-consumption is larger than the time threshold.
5. A discrimination method according to any preceding claim, comprising a step of obtaining a clock frequency for reading the optical storage medium.
6. A discrimination method according to Claim 5, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a blank disk when the clock frequency is substantially zero.
7. A method for discriminating an optical storage medium, comprising:

obtaining a clock frequency for reading the optical storage medium; and
comparing the clock frequency with a frequency threshold to discriminate a type of the optical storage medium.

8. A discrimination method according to Claim 7, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a DVD when the clock frequency is larger than the frequency threshold.

9. A discrimination method according to Claim 7, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a CD when the clock frequency is smaller than the frequency threshold.

10. A discrimination method according to Claim 7, wherein the comparing step comprises a step of determining the optical storage medium as a blank disk when the clock frequency is substantially zero.

11. A method for discriminating an optical storage medium, comprising:
projecting a light beam onto the optical storage medium to obtain a distance between a reflection layer and a surface layer of the optical storage medium; and
comparing the obtained distance with a distance threshold to discriminate the optical storage medium.

12. A discrimination method according to Claim 11, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a DVD when the obtained distance is smaller than the distance threshold.

13. A discrimination method according to Claim 11, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a CD when the obtained distance is larger than the distance threshold.

14. A discrimination method according to Claim 11, wherein the comparing step comprises a step of determining the optical storage medium as a blank disk when a clock frequency for reading the optical storage medium is substantially zero.

15. A discrimination method according to Claim 11, further comprising a step of reading a predetermined range of the optical storage medium to obtain a plurality of data transition points when the obtained distance is larger than a failure threshold, wherein each of transition regions is defined as an interval between two neighboring ones of the data transition points.

16. A discrimination method according to Claim 15, further comprising:
obtaining a longest transition region among the transition regions; and
discriminating a type of the optical storage medium according to a dimension of the longest transition region.

17. A discrimination method according to Claim 16, wherein the discriminating step comprises:

obtaining a time-consumption for reading the longest transition region; and
comparing the time-consumption with a time threshold to discriminate the optical storage medium.

18. A discrimination method according to Claim 17, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a DVD when the time-consumption is smaller than the time threshold and the optical storage medium is discriminated as a CD when the time-consumption is larger than the time threshold.

19. A discrimination method according to Claim 11, further comprising a step of obtaining a clock frequency for reading the optical storage medium to discriminate the optical storage medium when the obtained distance is larger than a failure threshold,

wherein the clock frequency is compared with a frequency threshold to discriminate a type of the optical storage medium.

20. A discrimination method according to Claim 19, wherein the optical storage medium is discriminated as a DVD when the clock frequency is larger than the frequency threshold and the optical storage medium is discriminated as a CD when the clock frequency is smaller than the frequency threshold.

21. A method for discriminating an optical storage medium, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any of Figs. 2 to 4 of the accompanying drawings.

22. An optical storage medium whenever discriminated using a method according to any preceding claim.



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Application No: GB 0324645.1
Claims searched: 1-6

Examiner: Ralph Cannon
Date of search: 9 February 2004

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
X	1-5	US 5745460	(TATEISHI) figs. 1, 3, 4, col. 1 lines 33-56 col. 2 line 54 - col. 3 line 11 col. 4 lines 1-35 col. 5 lines 43-59
X	1-5	EP 0784321 A2	(SAMSUNG) fig. 3, col. 2 lines 27-44 col. 5 lines 10-56
A		US 6304535 B1	(MAGOME) fig. 4 col. 4 line 28- col. 5 line 35
A		US 5764610	(YOSHIDA) fig. 5 col. 7 line 12 - col. 8 line 22 col. 9 line 50 - col. 10 line 18
A		US 6272087 B1	(HIRASHIMA) fig. 3 col. 2 line 16 - col. 3 line 24.

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^W:

G5R

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

G11B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

Online: EPODOC, WPI, PAJ, TXTE